

## Syllabus – Elective Course

Course title:

**Introduction to French & Francophone Women Writers**

Credits:

6 ECTS credits

Teaching language:

English

Target students:

Undergraduate students from all study areas with an interest in French Literature.

Teacher in charge of the course:

Nadia Louar, PhD- Associate Professor University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

### **COURSE PRESENTATION**

Prerequisite:

Students undertaking this course should normally have successfully completed at least one semester at university, or have equivalent experience. They must have some ability to work as a group and be able to communicate easily in English at a standard university level. In other respects, the course is intended to serve a mix of profiles and learning backgrounds for a more diverse international learning experience.

Content:

This course will provide students with an introduction to / overview of the literary representation of gendered experiences in personal stories authored by a range of leading contemporary female French-speaking writers.

By reading selection of critical writings alongside literary texts, we will explore the relation between sexual identity and literary practices and between gender and genre.

How do stories shape our understanding of gender roles? How do they reveal stereotypes about femininity, masculinity, sexuality and ethnicity? How does literature deconstruct common attitudes about sex, gender, abortion, sexual difference, sexual politics, language, culture and society? What is the role of women's writing in contemporary France in reimagining and reshaping sexual and racial identities? How does the representation of gendered and racialized experiences in women's literature challenge the dominant patriarchal and colonial discourse of contemporary France?

Course sessions will include:

- Lectures
- Discussions
- Close reading analysis

- Individual and group presentations
- Wrap-up and evaluation

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, the students should:

- Acquire knowledge of women's writing in contemporary France
- Acquire the critical vocabulary used in the field of literature and women's studies
- Develop an ability to use concepts of literary and cultural analysis
- Develop an ability to engage in focused discussion and formal presentation
- Develop an understanding of the issues involved in writing autobiographically
- Improve reading skills through close readings of texts
- Understand various critical approaches to women's writing

**WORKLOAD**

*French contact hours = 60 minutes (in some countries/institutions, 1 contact hour = 45-50 minutes)*

Form:	Number of hours	Comments
Face-to-face, in-class, on-site learning	<b>39 hours</b>	13 sessions of 3 hours
Additional field trips		
Approximate personal work / homework	15 hours	
Student total workload	54 hours	

**EDUCATIONAL METHODS**

This course will explore these questions through class discussions, presentations and close readings.

**RESOURCES**

We will read extracts from the following texts:

Nina Bouraoui, *Tomboy*.  
University of Nebraska Press, 2007.

Marie Darrieussecq, *Pig Tales: A Novel of Lust and Transformation*.  
New York: The New Press, 1997.

Virginie Despentes, *King Kong Theory*.  
New York: Feminist Press, 2010.

Faïza, Guène, *Kiffe Kiffe Tomorrow*.  
Orlando: Harcourt, 2006.

Anne Garréta, *Sphinx*  
Deep Vellum Publishing, 2015

+ Essays by Simone de Beauvoir, Judith Butler, Franz Fanon, Michel Foucault, and critical scholarship

on the authors.

## ASSESSMENT

Form	Number	Comments
Continuous assessment (30%)	3 3	Critical Response Papers (20%) Reading Quizzes (10%)
Final exam (50%)	1 1	Final Take-Home Exam (30%) Final Presentation (20%)
Others (student participation...) (20%)		Attendance, participation, and contribution to group discussion (20%)

*This syllabus is based on information available at the time of publication (December 2018). Changes may occur.*

*For updated information about course content, please contact us: [esp@univ-catholille.fr](mailto:esp@univ-catholille.fr)*